

REMARKS

This Response is in reply to the Examiner Interview conducted April 11,2007 and the outstanding Office Action dated March 14,2007.

Examiner Interview

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Crouse for the courtesy extended during the Examiner interview held March 14,2007. During the Interview Applicant and Examiner Crouse discussed proposed claim language to overcome the prior art rejections of record. The claims have been amended in accord with the interview. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 21, 54, and 62 are amended. Claims 59-62 are withdrawn as relating to a non-elected invention. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claims 1, 21, 54, and 62 have been amended to recite "the **partially melted and** unmelted non-aromatic fibers are dispersed **within** the fused matrix." This amendment is supported at least by the original disclosure at page 11, lines 23-26.

Rejoinder

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner rejoin method claims 45, 48-53, and 60-62 upon allowance of product claims 1-11, 13-33, 35-44, and 54-59. Claims 1-11, 13-33, 35-46, and 48-62 are pending.

Election/Restriction

Newly submitted claims 60-62 are drawn to methods of making a composite material. These claims have been withdrawn pending rejoinder of allowable product claims.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-11, 13-33, 35-44, and 54-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the combination of *Adams* (U.S. Patent No. 4,424,250) as evidenced by *Kotlair et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,626,939), *Boedeker* website: www.bodecker.com/polyp_p.htm, *Goodfellow* website: www.goodfellow.com/csp/active/STATIC/E/Polyamide_-_Nylon_6.html, and *Corneliussen* website: www.maropolymeronline.com. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claims 1, 21, and 54 are directed to a structural composite material and recite a composite material including non-aromatic nylon fiber dispersed in a fused matrix containing polyolefin and non-aromatic nylon, in which the composite comprises non-aromatic nylon fibers that are partially melted and others that remain unmelted. As amended, the claim clarifies that the partially melted and unmelted fibers are **dispersed within** the fused matrix.

Adams does not teach all claim limitations:

As discussed during the Examiner's Interview, *Adams* does not teach or suggest all the limitations of the instant claims. In particular, *Adams* fails to teach a structural material having partially melted and unmelted fibers dispersed within the fused matrix, nor the strength required by the claim's recited flexural elastic modulus. Applicant notes the claimed fused matrix is a composite material having unique strength and flexibility properties.

Adams fails to teach or suggest a composite material as claimed. The reference contains no teaching of fibers dispersed in a fused matrix. In contrast, Figures 3 and 4 of *Adams* show tacking of fibers to a base, with "needling" required to hold the composite together. No "fused matrix" containing fibers dispersed within is disclosed or suggested.

The secondary evidence is cited for the mechanical properties of carpet and carpet fibers. None of these references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the invention as claimed.

In summary, *Adams*, alone or in combination with the cited secondary evidence, fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention. For at least the reasons discussed above, the cited combination of references fails to render claims 1, 21, and 54 obvious. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

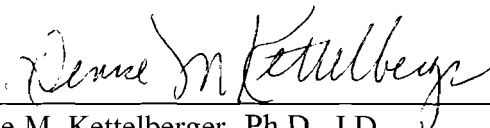
In summary, Applicant submits that each of claims 1-11, 13-33, 35-46, 48-62 is in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below, to clarify any of the above Amendments or Remarks, or to otherwise expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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